

# Offenders Make Toys For Needy Children

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J. David Donahue,  
Commissioner



Westville, Indiana - (May 24, 2006) - Department of Correction Commissioner J. David Donahue and Facility Superintendent William Wilson have dedicated offenders at the Westville Correctional Facility to a project designed to provide toys to area kids in need. Wooden toys created by offender workers have included trucks, airplanes, cars, front-end loaders and rocking horses. On May 18, doll houses complete with furniture were presented to Diana Dibkey, Executive Director of Dunebrook Child Services. The doll houses will be used in play therapy to help them meet the physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs of the clients of that organization.

“The Indiana Department of Correction is a strong advocate of utilizing offender labor in helpful endeavors that benefit the public,” said Commissioner Donahue. “Helping kids is one of our major initiatives. The offenders are equally excited to help kids, using their creative energy in the Prison Enterprise Network industry’s hickory shop.”

The mission of Dunebrook Child Services is to provide positive family support and education. The organization serves 22,000 clients across the state, and is involved in such aspects of care as Child Help USA, Baby Safe Haven and informational services on topics such as nurturing and prenatal care.

“We are pleased to provide a meaningful resource to Dunebrook Child Services ” said William Wilson, Superintendent of the facility. “The offenders are provided an opportunity to develop their job skills and a stronger work ethic, while contributing to a valuable community service.”

The toy operation is part of the Park and Patio shop led by Industries Manager John Hooper. It employs 90 offenders. The PEN site can be accessed at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection/penproducts/index.html>

### **About The Department of Correction**

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department’s home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department’s Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.